

## Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 110063  
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY IO:CRFRANK/DD  
APPROVED BY IO:JABAKER  
S/S:AOTTO

-----142102Z 005408 /64

O R 142040Z MAY 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 110063

EXDIS - LISBON FOR IO ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PORG, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH INQUIRY CONCERNING U.S. POSITION ON UN  
RESTRUCTURING

1. MINISTER COUNSELOR BOYER OF FRENCH EMBASSY IN  
WASHINGTON CALLED UPON DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS (IO DEPUTY  
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES JOHN BAKER AND CHARLES FRANK) TO  
INQUIRE ABOUT UNITED STATES POSITION ON UN RESTRUCTURING.  
BOYER WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN REPORTS THAT HE  
HAD FROM NEW YORK THAT THE U.S. HAD PROPOSED THE  
CREATION OF A POST OF DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS.

2. U.S. OFFICIALS CAUTIONED THAT THERE WAS NO FORMAL  
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PAGE 02 STATE 110063

U.S. PROPOSAL OR POSITION ON ANY PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH  
A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL POSITION. WE HAD, HOWEVER,  
BEEN GIVING CONSIDERATION TO SUCH AN IDEA AND SAW SOME  
MERIT IN IT. WE SAID THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY  
REACTIONS THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE.

3. FRENCH MINISTER COUNSELOR EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT  
A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL POSITION BECAUSE IT MIGHT  
BE VERY SIMILAR TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT  
PROPOSED BY THE G-77. THEY QUESTIONED WHETHER THERE

WAS A NEED FOR A DIRECTOR GENERAL TO OVERSEE THE AFFAIRS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS SECRETARIAT IN NEW YORK AND THE WISDOM OF SPLITTING THAT SECRETARIAT INTO DIFFERENT SECTIONS UNDER THE AEGIS OF A DIRECTOR GENERAL.

4. U.S. RESPONDED THAT WE SAW SOME MERIT IN THE IDEA OF A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL IF HIS DUTIES WERE DEFINED MORE BROADLY THAN THE DUTIES BEING DISCUSSED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT. A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD BE THE NUMBER TWO MAN IN THE UN SECRETARIAT, JUST UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPUTY WOULD BE POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC AND WOULD DERIVE FROM A DELEGATION OF POWERS BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL HIMSELF. THE SYG DOES HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UN SYSTEM, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER UN ORGANIZATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AREAS. BECAUSE OF LIMITED TIME AND ABILITY, THE SECRETARY GENERAL TENDS TO FOCUS MORE ON THE POLITICAL SIDE SO THAT IT WOULD MAKE SENSE TO APPOINT A DEPUTY WHOSE MAJOR FOCUS WOULD BE ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES. THE DEPUTY WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO ACT FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL WHEN HE WAS OUTSIDE OF NEW YORK. THUS, THE DEPUTY WOULD HAVE TO BE SOMEONE WITH BROAD ABILITIES, CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 110063

BUT HIS FOCUS WOULD CLEARLY BE ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES.

5. WE ALSO SAW SOME MERIT IN THE IDEA OF A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL FROM A LONG RANGE POLITICAL PROSPECTIVE. THE PRESSURES TO APPOINT A SECRETARY GENERAL FROM THE DEVELOPING WORLD ARE LIKELY TO GROW TO THE POINT WHERE EVENTUALLY WE MAY FIND THEM VERY DIFFICULT TO RESIST. IF THIS IS A CORRECT PROGNOSIS, THEN PERHAPS WE WOULD BE MUCH BETTER SERVED BY THE EXISTENCE OF TWO UN POSTS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS, ONE OF WHICH WOULD NORMALLY BE FILLED BY SOMEONE FROM THE DEVELOPING WORLD AND THE OTHER BY SOMEONE FROM A DEVELOPED COUNTRY.

6. THE FRENCH MINISTER COUNSELOR EXPRESSED TWO CONCERNS. FIRST, HE SAID, WOULD NOT THE GROUP OF 77 ATTEMPT TO DEFINE THE DUTIES OF A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL IN MUCH THE SAME WAY AS THEIR PROPOSED DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT? SECOND, IF IT WERE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE TWO TOP POSTS IN THE UN WERE TO BE SPLIT BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD NOT THE SOVIET BLOC ATTEMPT TO HAVE ANOTHER DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL ESTABLISHED WHO WOULD BE FROM ONE OF THE

COMMUNIST NATIONS?

7. U.S. RESPONDED THAT CLEARLY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD WANT TO DEFINE THE DUTIES OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL VERY SIMILARLY TO THOSE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL. WE WOULD WANT TO DEFINE THOSE DUTIES MORE BROADLY. WE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WOULD BE A REASONABLY EASY ISSUE TO NEGOTIATE AND THE LOGIC OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL IDEA OUGHT TO LEAD TO A BROAD DEFINITION OF DUTIES.

8. CONCERNING THE SECOND POINT, WE EXPRESSED THE VIEW  
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PAGE 04 STATE 110063

THAT THE PRESSURES FROM THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES TO ESTABLISH A VERY HIGH LEVEL POST TO BE FILLED BY SOMEONE FROM A COMMUNIST COUNTRY COULD BE RESISTED, CERTAINLY MORE EASILY THAN THE PRESSURES FROM THE GROUP OF 77 TO ESTABLISH A HIGH LEVEL POST FILLED BY AN OFFICIAL FROM A DEVELOPING COUNTRY. IN ANY EVENT, IF THERE WERE A SECRETARY GENERAL AND A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL POST, A NATURAL ALLIANCE WOULD BE FORMED BETWEEN US AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO RESIST ANY SUCH SOVIET INITIATIVE. WE FELT THAT THIS ALLIANCE WOULD BE FAIRLY EFFECTIVE.

9. THE FRENCH THEN ASKED ABOUT THEIR PROPOSAL TO STRENGTHEN THE SECRETARIAT IN THE FIELD OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND GIVE MORE RESPONSIBILITY TO DEVELOPING COUNTRY OFFICIALS IN THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION AREA. U.S. REPLIED THAT WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPABILITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT IN THE FIELD OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION BECAUSE OF THE COMPETITION WITH THE UNDP AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. RATHER, U.S. THOUGHT THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE REDUCED IN SCOPE IN ORDER TO AVOID WHAT WE FELT WAS UNHEALTHY COMPETITION FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION FUNDS AND A PROLIFERATION OF POORLY DESIGNED TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS. U.S. ALSO FELT THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL WOULD NOT BE ATTRACTIVE ENOUGH TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE THEIR COOPERATION IN THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE. THE FRENCH PROPOSAL WOULD MAKE NO CONTRIBUTION TO THE LONG RUN POLITICAL PROBLEM WHICH DERIVES FROM PRESSURES TO APPOINT A SECRETARY GENERAL FROM THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

10. U.S. ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT AN EXAMINATION OF TOP JOBS IN THE UN SECRETARIAT IN NEW YORK REVEALS THAT THEY ARE NEARLY ALL FILLED BY OFFICIALS FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. IN CONTRAST, NEARLY ALL THE TOP OFFICIALS AT UNCTAD ARE FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WE THOUGHT  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 110063

THAT THERE MAY BE A POSSIBILITY FOR MEETING THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' LEGITIMATE CONCERNS ABOUT GREATER REPRESENTATION IN THE UN SECRETARIAT IN RETURN FOR AN UNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT SOME OF THE TOP JOBS IN UNCTAD WOULD BE FILLED BY OFFICIALS FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

11. ON THE QUESTION OF TIMING, THE U.S. FELT THAT NOTHING CONCLUSIVE WOULD RESULT FROM THE CURRENT MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING WHICH ENDS MAY 20 IN NEW YORK. WE THOUGHT THAT THE LIKELY OUTCOME OF THIS MEETING WOULD BE A CHAIRMAN'S REPORT INDICATING MERELY A WIDE VARIETY OF VIEWS WITH LITTLE CONSENSUS. THERE WOULD BE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF THIS ISSUE AT THE SUMMER ECOSOC MEETING, BUT WE DID NOT THINK THAT THE ISSUE WOULD COME TO A HEAD UNTIL THE FALL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

12. THE U.S. THOUGHT THAT ANY PROPOSAL FOR A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD REQUIRE CAREFUL CONSULTATION BETWEEN US, THE FRENCH AND OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. WE FELT THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO MAKE ANY PROPOSAL OF THIS SORT UNTIL THE RESULTS OF THE PARIS CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WERE KNOWN AND BEFORE POSSIBLE CONSULTATIONS WERE HELD DURING THE OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING IN LATE JUNE. CHRISTOPHER

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